

Social Philosophy of Buddhism

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Themes to be discussed:

An analytical and evaluative study of the social philosophy of Buddhism will be based on the discourses of the Pāli Canon. While the Buddhist concept of man and its implications will serve as a background to this study, it will focus attention on the following topics:

1. Buddhist critique of the social and religious institutions based on the Brahmanic theory of *varnadharma* and *svadharma*.
2. Buddhist view of the origin and evolution of the society.
3. Biological, historical and ethical arguments on the oneness of the human species.
4. Emphasis on man's superiority as against his supremacy.
5. Ethical criteria of human ends and social ideals.
6. Individual, society and inter-personal relations.
7. *dharmma-cariyā* and *samacariyā*.
8. Buddhist observations on economy and polity.

Readings:

1. O. H. de A. Wijesekera, *Buddhism and Society*, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society, 1972.
2. K. N. Jayatilleka, *Aspects of Buddhist Social Philosophy*, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society, 1969.
3. Ken Jones, *Buddhism and Social Action*, Kandy: Buddhist Publication Society, 1981.
4. G. P. Malalasekera and K. N. Jayatilleka, *Buddhism and the Race Question*, Unesco, Paris: Unesco, 1958.
5. Harvey B. Aronson, *Love and Sympathy in Theravada Buddhism*, Delhi, 1980.
6. K. N. Jayatilleka, *The message of the Buddha*, ed. Ninian Smart, London, 1975.
7. Trevor Ling, *The Buddha*, London, 1951.
8. *Idem*, *Buddha, Marx and God*, New York, 1966.
9. G. Dharmasiri, *Fundamentals of Buddhist Ethics*, Singapore, 1986.
10. Nathan Katz, *Buddhist Images of Human Perfection*, Delhi, 1982.
11. Diana Y. Paul, *Women in Buddhism*, California, 1979.
12. D. Gokuldas, *Democracy in Early Buddhist Sangha*, Calcutta, 1955.